

# **FORT PINKHAM TIMBER SALE**

May 19, 2008 Land Board

## **LOCATION OF SALE**

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – The Pinkham Creek section is approximately 5 air miles southwest of Eureka, Montana. The Fortine Creek section is approximately 0.5 mile south of Fortine, Montana.
- Lincoln County – Section 36, T35N-R28W, and Section 36, T35N-R26W.
- 100 percent Common School Income.
- This sale is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

## **SALE VOLUME AND ESTIMATED VALUE**

- The estimated volume is 21,772 tons (3,079 MBF), with an estimated minimum stumpage value of \$331,370 or \$15.22/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$3.89/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.06 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

## **SALE AND HARVEST TREATMENTS**

- This timber sale consists of 16 harvest units that total 370 acres.
- The silvicultural prescriptions would include seedtree with reserves, shelterwood, commercial thin, overstory removal, and clearcut with reserves.
- The prescriptions would promote natural regeneration, retain some visual structure, and effectively manage the current issues related to fuels and fuels management.
- Harvesting would include 14 acres of old growth. The Douglas-fir bark beetle and the flatheaded fir borers have caused mortality in many of the large-diameter Douglas-fir and western larch. If this stand is left untreated, a high likelihood exists that the stand would no longer meet DNRC's old-growth definition in the future due to on-going mortality.

## **HARVEST SYSTEMS**

- 76% Tractor
- 24% Cable

## **ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

- Approximately 1.25 miles of new road construction is planned; 0.5 mile of the existing road would receive minor reconstruction to meet current BMPs.
- Approximately 0.4 mile of temporary road is required to access harvest units; a road-use agreement is in place with the landowner.
- Temporary roads constructed during the sale would be reclaimed following harvest activities.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- Public involvement was solicited through legal notices in the Tobacco Valley News and letters were also sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups. The Fort Pinkham project analysis is contained in the Old Highway EA. The areas of concern specific to the Fort Pinkham section were wildlife, forest fuels, and new road construction in the Fortine Creek section. The areas of concern for the Pinkham Creek parcel were the spread of noxious weeds, and a grazing lease which the foresters worked with the lessee while designing the project.

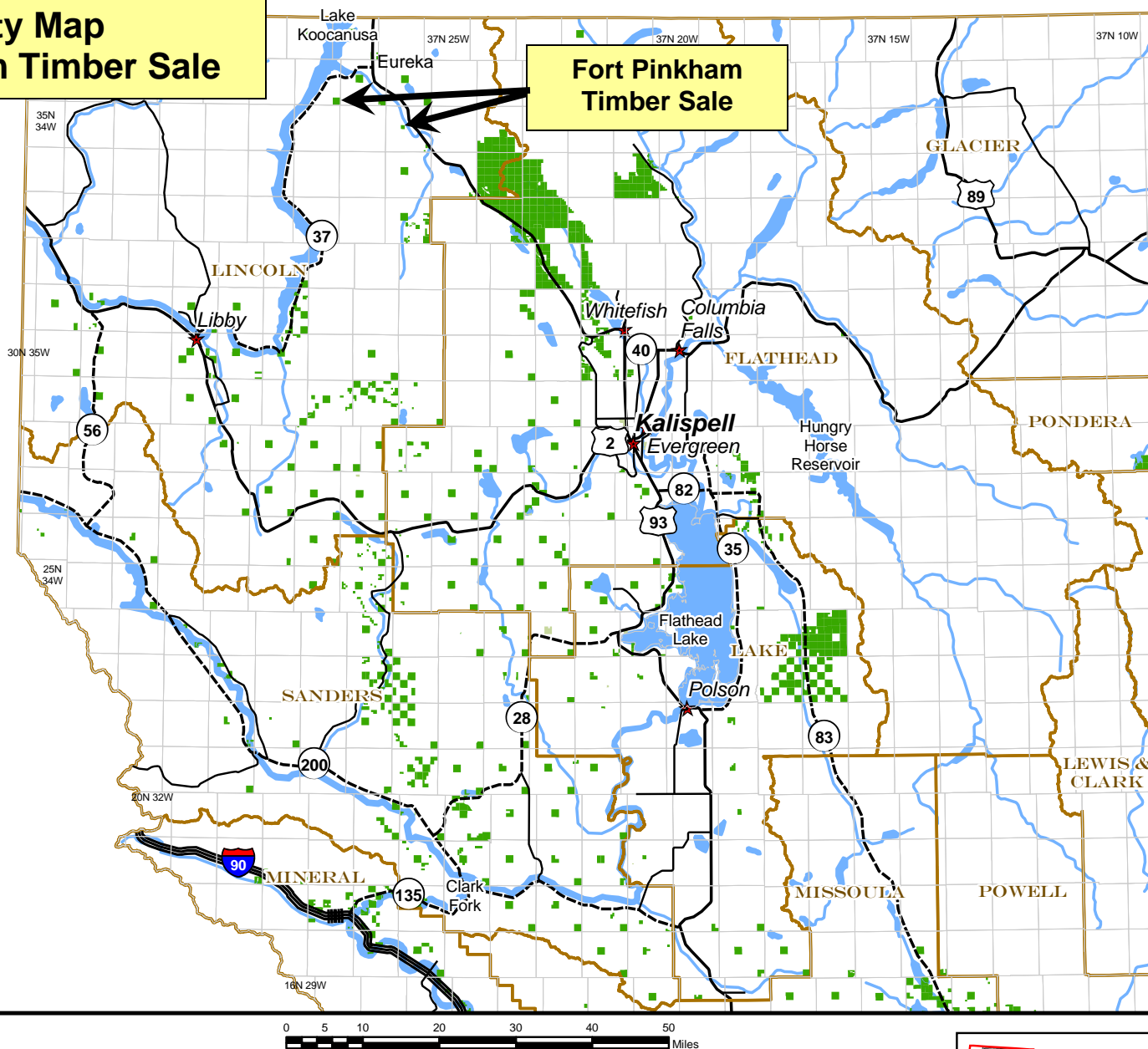
## **PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISSUES, AND MITIGATIONS**

- ***FUELS REDUCTION*** - Rural homesteads are located near both the Fortine and Pinkham sections of the project area, and the project area is within the wildland urban interface. This project would reduce dense fuels on more than 370 acres; those areas within 1,000 feet of a house would have additional cleanup of logging-created slash. Firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and proposed harvest prescriptions.
- ***NOXIOUS WEEDS*** - By using an integrated weed-management plan, the spread of weeds would be limited by the following:
  - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site.
  - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
  - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- ***WILDLIFE*** – In general, habitat would improve for species adapted to the more-open forest conditions. The project area is in a 170,000-acre block of big game winter range. This project will reduce the amount of thermal cover that is available for moose, elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer. The proposed harvest units would stimulate browse production. The retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances; the road restrictions would remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for wildlife. Hunter access would be slightly reduced with the action alternative due to a reduction in the open-road density.
- ***ROADS IN THE FORTINE CREEK SECTION*** – The access road across the Dunlap meadow will be a temporary snow road. The harvest units will be harvested during the winter. At this time the landowner does not want to encumber his property with a road easement.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Fort Pinkham Timber Sale Project.**

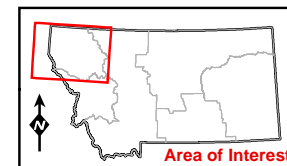
# Vicinity Map Fort Pinkham Timber Sale

**Fort Pinkham  
Timber Sale**



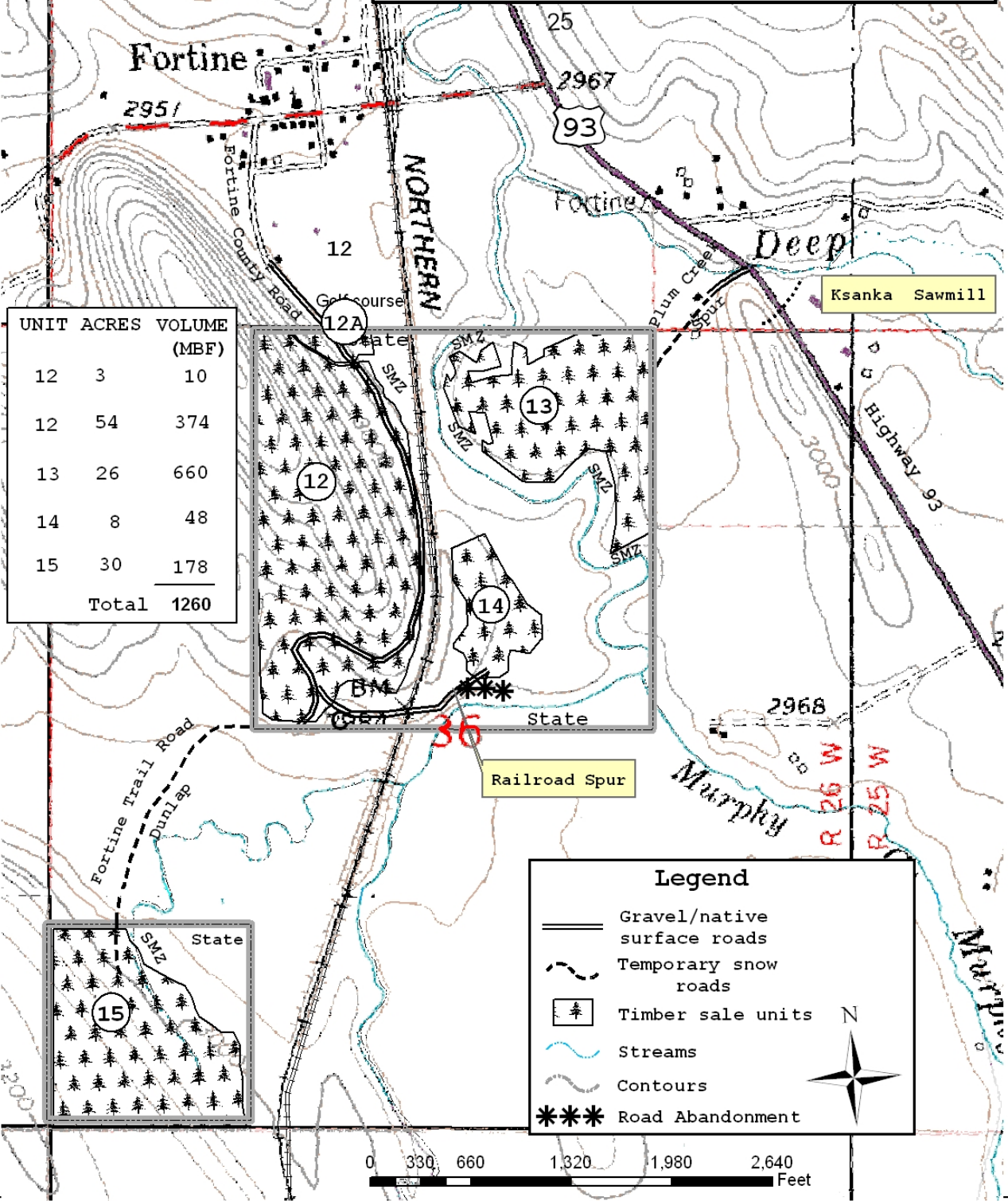
	Interstate Highway		Rivers		Lakes
	U.S. Route		City		DNRC managed for timber
	State Highway		County		DNRC other
	Secondary Roads		Township/Range		

21 February 2007  
Montana DNRC  
Technical Services Section/dr



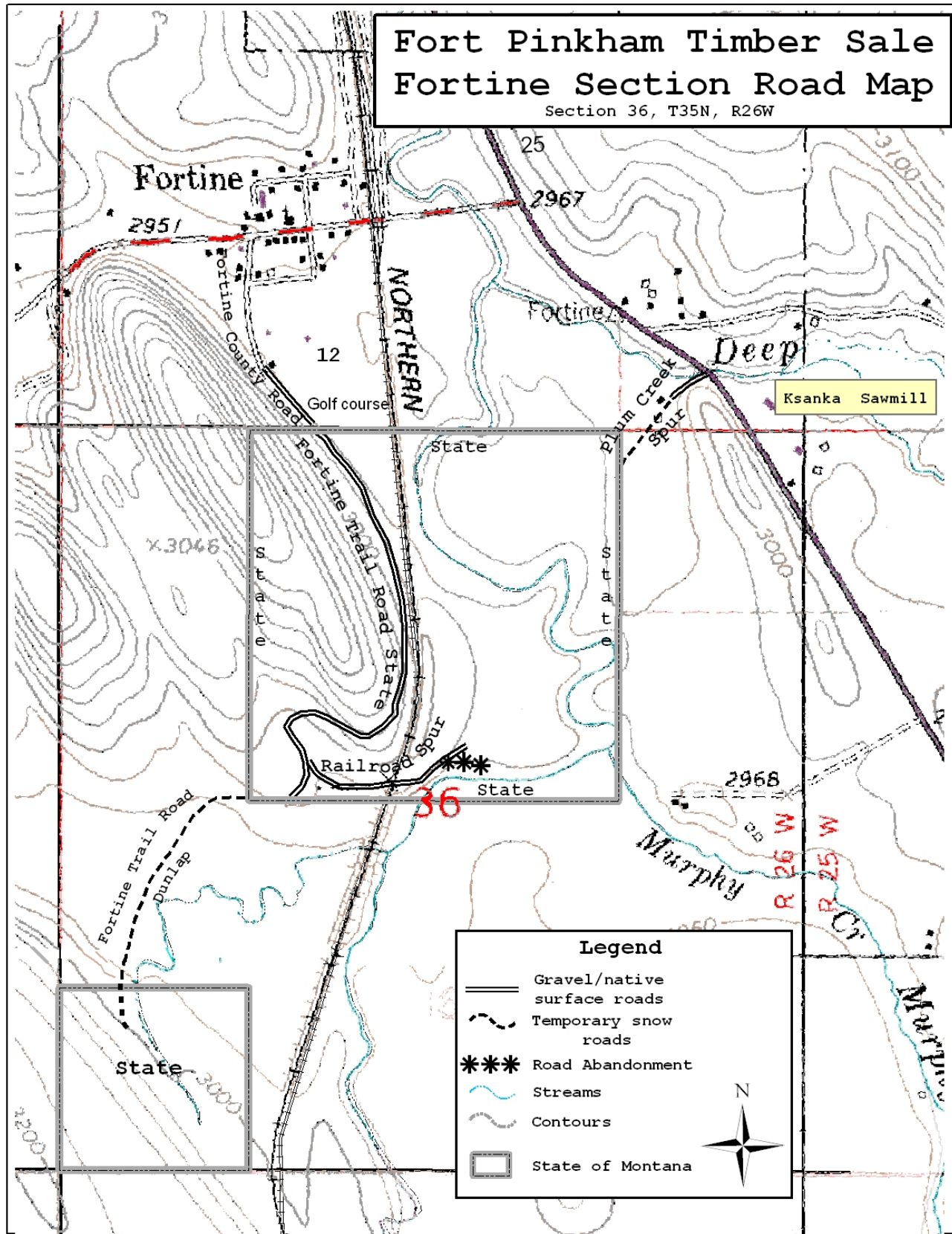
# Fort Pinkham Timber Sale Fortine Section Unit Map

Section 36, T35N, R26W



# Fort Pinkham Timber Sale Fortine Section Road Map

Section 36, T35N, R26W










# Fort Pinkham Timber Sale Pinkham Section Unit Map

Sec 36, T36N, R28W

UNIT	ACRES	VOLUME (MBF)
1	96	620
2	5	20
3	23	335
4	18	97
5	6	54
6	6	23
7	27	237
8	10	73
9	12	109
10	35	158
11	15	93

## Legend

-  Gravel/Native surface roads
-  Asphalt roads
-  Temporary roads
-  Skid trail
-  Skyline units
-  Tractor units

